

REMARKS

Initially, Applicant would like to express his appreciation to the Examiner for the detailed Official Action provided on October 18, 2004. Applicant also acknowledges with appreciation the acknowledgement of Applicant's Claim of Priority and receipt of the certified copy of the priority document, and the return of the initialed Form PTO-1449 submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement filed June 29, 2004.

Upon entry of the above amendment, claim 1 will have been amended, and new claims 3 and 4 will have been added. Thus, claims 1-4 are currently pending. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of outstanding rejections, and allowance of all the claims pending in the present application.

On page 2 of the Official Action, claims 1-2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over PETERSON (US 3,896,404) in view of CAROTHERS (US 5,325,078). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 1-2.

Claim 1, as presently amended, includes, inter alia, "A hood switch in a combination with a front end module carrier...." Applicant submits that PETERSON fails to disclose a hood switch or a switch in combination with a front end carrier. CAROTHERS fails to disclose the combination of a conductor element and magnetic

element. Further, the switch disclosed in PETERSON is directed to a door, specifically surveillance over doors (see lines 7-16, first paragraph of PETERSON), and there is nothing in any of the applied prior art to suggest the combination of the teachings proposed by the Examiner in the above rejections. Moreover, even assuming, arguendo, that the combination of the teachings of PETERSON and CAROTHERS is proper, such combination would not result in Applicant's claimed invention as presently recited in claim 1 since such combination would not result in a conductor element attached to a lower surface of a front end module carrier and a magnetic element attached to an inner panel of a hood. Therefore, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection of claim 1 and provide an early indication of the allowance thereof.

Applicant also submits that dependent claims 2-4, which are at least patentable due to their respective dependencies from claim 1 for the reasons noted above, recite additional features of the invention and are also separately patentable over the prior art of record.

Additionally, with respect to newly added claims 3 and 4, Applicant respectfully submits that CAROTHERS fails to disclose a "contactless-type proximity switch" in

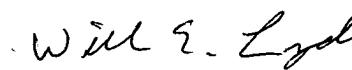
claim 3 because the switch of CAROTHERS is a contact-type switch (see Fig.5A showing magnet (78) contacting magnetic switch (56)). Further, CAROTHERS also fails to disclose an "alarm light" illuminated when the hood is open, illumination assemblies(12) of CAROTHERS are illuminated rather than an alarm light.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

It is believed that the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. The Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the presently outstanding rejection. It is believed that a full and completed response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner have any questions concerning this response, or the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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